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Attorney Docket No.: 2003039-US

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1: (Original) A device for providing anti-reflux comprising: at least one part providing a valve seat, and a valve element defining an outer contour formed from a sheet-shaped material blank, said valve element including at least one connecting portion and a flap portion and defining a longitudinal direction extending between the connecting portion and the flap portion, and retaining means for retaining the valve element with respect to the device, said retaining means being integral with the device, characterized in that the connecting portion includes engagement means formed integrally with the valve element for engagement with said retaining means, the valve element projecting a coherent plane.

2: (Original) A device according to claim 1, for providing anti-reflux in a body fluid drainage and/or sampling system.

3: (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1, wherein the engagement means include at least one incision in said outer contour, said at least one incision extending substantially transverse with respect to said longitudinal direction, said at least one incision being at the transition between the flap portion and the connecting portion.

4: (Original) A device according to claim 3, including two incisions.

5: (Currently Amended) A device for providing anti-reflux comprising: at least one part providing a valve seat, and a valve element defining an outer contour formed from a sheet-shaped material blank, said valve element including at least one connecting portion and a flap portion and defining a longitudinal direction extending between the connecting portion and the flap portion, and retaining means for retaining the valve element with respect to the device, said retaining means being integral with the device, characterized in that the connecting portion includes engagement means formed integrally with the valve element for engagement with said

retaining means, the valve element projecting a coherent plane, wherein the engagement means include at least one incision, said at least one incision extending substantially transverse with respect to said longitudinal direction, said at least one incision being at the transition between the flap portion and the connecting portion. A device as claimed in claim 3, in which said engagement means include a hook-shaped section positioned outwards of said at least one incision with respect to said longitudinal direction.

6: (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1, in which said outer contour forms a curve defining a continuously advancing function on a respective side of the longitudinal direction.

7: (Previously Presented) A device as claimed in claim 1, in which said engagement means are formed within said outer contour.

8: (Original) A device as claimed in claim 7, in which said engagement means are provided as at least one slit the sheet-shaped material.

9: (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1, wherein said engagement means are formed integrally in said outer contour.

10: (Previously Presented) A device as claimed in claim 2, in which the body fluid is urine.

11: (Original) A device as claimed in claim 10, wherein said valve seat providing part constitutes a connector for connection with a urinary catheter, forms part of a hose in said system or of a sample port device.

12: (Currently Amended) A valve element including at least one connecting portion and a flap portion and defining a longitudinal direction extending between the connecting portion and the flap portion, and with engagement means integrally formed in the valve element, characterized in that the valve element including the engagement means projects a coherent plane. is

~~manufactured by cutting along a closed line in a sheet-shaped material blank.~~

13: (Cancelled)

14: (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a valve element, the method comprising:
defining a planar valve outer contour having an integral connection portion, a flap
portion, and engagement means integrally in the valve element comprising the step of
separating the defined planar profile from a sheet-shaped material blank so that the
resultant valve projects coherent plane within the outer contour. cutting the valve element and
the engagement means along one closed line in a sheet-shaped material blank.

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15: (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a valve element having a connection portion, a flap portion, and engagement means integrally in the valve element comprising the step of cutting the valve element along one closed line in a sheet-shaped material blank; and cutting at least one slit in the sheet-shaped material without generating leaving no waste material from within a perimeter of the closed line cut.

16: (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1314, in which said outer contour is formed along a curve defining a continuously advancing function on a respective side of the longitudinal direction.

17: (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1314, in which said outer contour is separating includes provided by a cutting operation such as punching, stamping or die-cutting the sheet shaped material blank.

18: (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1714, in which separating includes a rolling cut about the contour. the cutting operation is performed in a rolling operation.

19: (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1314, in which said outer contour is provided by separating includes cutting by means of a laser beam, or a water streamete.

20: - 22: (Cancelled)